Municipal By-laws relating to the construction of high-rise buildings in Central District of New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC) area.

(ii) Expansion of TV Centre, Mumbai:-

Slow progress of civil works by the contractor who was initially assigned the civil works of the project which eventually had to be rescinded and the balance work is now being executed by the second contractor; non-availability of construction material for some time; problems of water logging/regular seeppage in the basement; change in scope of the project etc.

(c) While the cost escalation due to delay in implementation of Doordarshan Bhawan (Studio-cum-Office Complex) project at Delhi is Rs. 4745.29 lakhs, in the case of Expansion of TV Centre Project at Mumbai, it is Rs. 1917.89 lakhs.

(d) The civil works in respect of Doordarshan Bhawan (Studio-cum-Office Complex) at Delhi as well as Expansion of TV Centre at Mumbai are in progress. As per the present indications, while the Doordarshan Bhawan (Studio-cum-Office Complex) at Delhi is expected to be made ready by the end of the financial year 1998-99, the project for Expansion of TV Centre at Mumbai is expected to be made ready by the end of the financial year 1997-98.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) to (h). There are at present 20 Radio Stations in operation in the State of Maharashtra providing service to estimated 98% area and 99% population of the State. Some small pockets in Sindhudurg and Osmanabad districts were reportedly not covered by any of the AIR's MW/FM Transmitters. However, the uncovered pockets in Osmanabad district are expected to receive AIR coverage from the FM transmitter at Osmanabad which has since been commissioned on 9.12.1996. In addition, a new Radio Station is being established at Malwan in Sindhudurg district which is expected to be completed during 9th Plan.

[Translation]

Re-Construction of Hotels

*313. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total amout proposed to be spent by India Tourism Development Corporation on the reconstruction of hotels;

(b) whether the modernisation drive is proposed to be funded entirely by the internal resources;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to demolish some hotels;

(e) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(f) whether the life of the hotels which are likely to be demolished was evaluated at the time of construction, and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) It is estimated to incur Rs. 98.11 crores on reconstruction of Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi in the first phase, followed by reconstruction of Janpath and Ranjit Hotels for which schemes would be finalised in second and third phases respectively.

(b) and (c). Yes Sir, current year's (1996-97) plan outlay of Rs. 40 crores which includes a provision of Rs. 17.74 crores for renovation/improvements in hotels would be met out of internal resources.

(d) and (e). The proposal is to demolish the old structures of Lodhi, Janpath and Ranjit hotels which are considered not conducive for the efficient operation of hotels. They will be replaced with new structures with modern facilities and utilisation of space.

(f) and (g). The buildings of these hotels were constructed in 1955-56 to be used as hotels by the Central Govt. No. records are available with ITDC about the evaluation of the life span of these buildings.

Shifting of Beedi Industries to Southern States

*314. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether beedi industries are being shifted from Madhya Pradesh to the Southern States:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for the economic development of the beedi labourers affected thereby?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) As per information furnished by the State Government, no such case has so far been reported to the State Labour Department.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Expenditure on Publicity

*315. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIUSHNH GAEKWAD :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry have been incurring huge expenditure on publicity arbitrarily;

(b) if so, whether he has expressed resentment in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the above PSUs and the expenditure incurred by each of them on publicity during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise such expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINIES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e). The details of expenditure incurred by the PSUs under the Ministry of Steel on publicity during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

While holding peridical review meetings to minitor physical and financial performance of the PSUs *vis-a-vis* MOU targets, it is cousomary to review, *interalia*, various items of expenditure and through these meetings suggestions are made to cut down expenditure where required.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Public Sector Undertaking	Expenditure incurred on Publicity (Rs. in Lakhs)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	823.00	969.00	1767.00
2.	Visakhapatnam Steel Plant	217.83	284.09	351.84
3.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.	54.04	26.13	57.67
4.	National Mineral Development Corp.	4.23	2.66	16.22
5.	Metallurgical & Engg. Consultants India Ltd.	27.21	28.87	54.82
6.	Manganese Ore India Ltd.	15.38	12.72	16.18
7.	MSTC Ltd.	13.59	1.90	6.36
8.	Bharat Refractories Limited	2.73	3.59	1.41
9.	Sponge Iron India Limited	0.20	1.07	0.22
10.	Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited	Nil	0.05	0.02
11.	Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.	4.00	4.00	8.00

[English]

National Postal Policy

*316. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the formulation of a National Postal Policy undertaken in 1992 has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). A formal document incorporating the National Postal Policy is yet to be finalised. However, the Department of Posts has been following consistent policy in the matter of development and operation of Postal Services in the Country. The salient features of the policy of the Department are indicated below.

In the matter of expansion of postal network in the rural areas, the Department's policy provides for substantial subsidy in respect of new post offices- 66% of anticipated cost in normal rural area and 85% of the anticipated cost in hilly, tribal and inaccessible area as well as allows the maximum permissible annual loss to the extent of Rs. 2400 in normal rural area and Rs. 4800 in tribal and hilly areas in the matter of upgradation of rural Branch Post Office into a Departmental Sub Post Office. 8041 villages including Gram Panchayats in the Country, where opening of Post Office is justified according to population and distance parameters, are still without postal counter facilities and the focus of Department's policy now is to provide new Post Offices in these villages. In extending Postal facilities in the Urban area financial viability is given greater importance in the Department's policy and a newly opened Post Office is required to be self-supporting by the end of its first year of existence. Parameter in respect of distance from existing Post Office is also appropriately related to Urban conditions where the density of population is much higher than in the rural area.

As regards delivery service in rural area, the norm is to deliver articles from Branch Post Office on the same day when these are received unless there are constraints of transmission arrangements. In the urban area, all Departmental delivery offices provide atleast one delivery per day for both ordinary and accountable